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Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Letter dated 6 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Islamabad Declaration, which was adopted at the second South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN-II 2006), held on 20 and 21 September 2006 in Islamabad (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the present letter and its attachment circulated at the earliest opportunity as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54.

(*Signed*) Munir **Akram**
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations

06-61036 (E) 131106

Annex to the letter dated 6 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Second South Asian Conference on Sanitation
Islamabad, 20-21 September 2006

ISLAMABAD DECLARATION

We, the Heads of **Delegations** from **Afghanistan,** Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Maldives, **Myanmar,** Nepal, **Pakistan** and Sri **Lanka participating** in the South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) **in Islamabad, Pakistan, September** 20-21, 2006, which was attended by the Ministers, State Ministers, senior civil servants, professionals from sector institutions, **academia,** civil society, **non-government organisations,** development partners **and** the private sector,

i) **Recognizing that Sanitation being** the basic **human** need is essential for improvement of environment, **health and quality of** life in **participating** countries;

ii) **Mindful** that **half of** the **population** in **participating** countries have no access to proper **sanitation and about** one million men, women and children **reportedly** die annually due to water **and sanitation** related **diseases;**

iii) **Being** ***aware that poor*** **sanitation** ***and*** related **health** issues need pursuance of strategies in solid and liquid wastes **management,** provision of proper sanitation facilities for **improvement** of hygienic environment; and that sanitation has close relationship with **disposal** of domestic, hospital, agriculture and indust'ial wastes; and being equally *aware* of the *need* to improve social delivery system, human settlement and better urban **planning** for ensuring improvement in sanitation; and

iv) **Noting,** with **acknowledgement, that the** first **South** Asian Conference *on* Sanitation held in **Dhaka, People's** Republic of **Bangladesh,** October 21-23, 2003 **facilitated** the participating **countries for the** formulation **of** ***sanitation*** *policies,* strategies and resolved to accelerate thei' implementation by the countries of the region and that the first conference an Sanitation also provided opportunities to the participating countries to share their experiences for meaningful improvement in the sanitation sector.

We the participating countries reaffirm *our* commitment and political will to achieve the targets of basic sanitation in **pursuance** of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Dhaka Declaration and that we further reaffirm at Islamabad to accelerate progress for achievement of adequate sanitation delivery system in a planned and phased manner by:

i) According high priority to sanitation:

ii) Strengthening inter-governmental cooperation in this region by activating the SACOSAN Inter-Cooney Working Group comprising of senior level representatives from the member countries to meet annually;

iii) iii) Discussing progress on all aspects of sanitation on a regular basis by reporting at the next South Asian Conference on a common set of indicators to be developed by the **inter-country working group;**

iv) Continuing to promote equity in our societies by striving to reach more effectively the hardcore **poor and** other **disadvantaged** communities through a combination of **participatory approaches;**

v) Striving tirelessly to increase ***the*** priority, **including** financial, given to sanitation by the **stakeholders;** and

vi) **Promoting** active **participation of** women **and** children in all the activities relating to the sanitation sector.

Agreeing **that momentum gained** at **first and second** SACOSANs **will** be further continued through hosting of third SACOSAN by **India in 2008,** fourth by Sri Lanka in 2010 and fifth by Nepal in 2012.

Finally we profess our **profound appreciation** to the *Government of* the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for successfully hosting the **Second *South*** Asian **Conference** on Sanitation (SACOSAN-2). We are grateful *for* being **accorded** such a warm and **hospitable** welcome and ***stay*** **by** the Government of **Pakistan** and **thank** the Government and the **people** of Pakistan for **making** this conference such a success.

(Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat)
Honorable Minister for **Environment,**
Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**

(Mrs. Saryt[anta PatI)
Honorable Minister of Statc for
Rural Development and Parliamentary Affairs
Government of India

(Mr. Copal Man Shrestha)
Honorable Minister for Physical **Planning,** & Works
Government of Nepal

(Dr. Chea Samnang)
Director Department of Rural Health
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(Mr. **Rohana Dieanayake**)
Honorable Deputy Minister of Highways & Urban Development and Water Supply Democratic Socialist **Republic** of **Sri Lanka**

(Mr. Fiazullah Kalcar)
Honorable Deputy Minister for Health Islamic Republic of **Afghanistan**

(Mr. S. M. Jahrul Islam)
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(Mr. Guo t4inglin)
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